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§ 2710.0-8 Lands subject to sale.

(a) All public lands, as defined by § 2710.0-5 of this title, and, which meet the disposal criteria specified under § 2710.0-3 of this title, are subject to sale pursuant to this part, except:

(1) Those public lands within the re-vested Oregon California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grants which are more suitable for management and administration for permanent forest protection and other purposes as provided for in the Acts of August 28, 1937 (50 Stat. 874; 43 U.S.C. 1181(a)); May 24, 1939 (53 Stat. 753); and section 701(b) of the Act.

(2) Public lands in units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and National System of Trails.

(3) Public lands classified, withdrawn, reserved or otherwise designated as not available or subject to sale shall not be sold under the regulations of this part until issuance of an order or notice which either opens or provides for such disposition.

(b) Unsurveyed public lands shall not be sold under the regulations of this part until they are officially surveyed under the public land survey system of the United States. Such survey shall be completed and approved by the Secretary prior to any sale.

Subpart 2711—Sales: Procedures

§ 2711.1 Initiation of sale.

§ 2711.1-1 Identification of tracts by land use planning.

(a) Tracts of public lands shall only be offered for sale in implementation of land use planning prepared and/or approved in accordance with subpart 1601 of this title.

(b) Public input proposing tracts of public lands for disposal through sale as part of the land use planning process may be made in accordance with §§ 1601.3, 1601.6-3 or § 1601.8 of this title.

(c) Nominations or requests for sales of public lands may be made to the District office of the Bureau of Land Management for the District in which the public lands are located and shall specifically identify the tract being nomi-

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nated or requested and the reason for proposing sale of the specific tract.

[45 FR 39418, June 10, 1980, as amended at 49 FR 29015, July 17, 1984]

§ 2711.1-2 Notice of realty action.

(a) A notice of realty action offering for sale a tract or tracts of public lands identified for disposal by sale shall be issued, published and sent to parties of interest by the authorized officer not less than 60 days prior to the sale. The notice shall include the terms, covenants, conditions and reservations which are to be included in the conveyance document and the method of sale. The notice shall also provide 45 days after the date of issuance for the right of comment by the public and interested parties.

(b) Not less than 60 days prior to sale, notice shall be sent to the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in whose district the public lands proposed for sale are located and the U.S. Senators for the State in which the public lands proposed for sale are located, the Senate and House of Representatives, as required by paragraph (f) of this section, to Governor of the State within which the public lands are located, to the head of the governing body of any political subdivision having zoning or other land use regulatory responsibility in the geographic area within which the public lands are located and to the head of any political subdivision having administrative or public services responsibility in the geographic area within which the lands are located. The notice shall be sent to other known interested parties of record including, but not limited to, adjoining landowners and current land users.

(c) The notice shall be published once in the FEDERAL REGISTER and once a week for 3 weeks thereafter in a newspaper of general circulation in the general vicinity of the public lands being proposed to be offered for sale.

(d) The publication of the notice of realty action in the FEDERAL REGISTER shall segregate the public lands covered by the notice of realty action to the extent that they will not be subject to appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws. Any

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subsequent application, shall not be accepted, shall not be considered as filed and shall be returned to the applicant, if the notice segregates the lands from the use applied for in the application. The segregative effect of the notice of realty action shall terminate upon issuance of patent or other document of conveyance to such lands, upon publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of a termination of the segregation or 270 days from the date of publication, whichever occurs first.

(e) The notice published under § 1610.5 of this title may, if so designated in the notice and is the functional equivalent of a notice of realty action required by this section, serve as the notice of realty action required by paragraph (a) of this section and may segregate the public lands covered by the sale proposal to the same extent that they would have been segregated under a notice of realty action issued under paragraph (a) of this section.

(f) For tracts of public lands in excess of 2,500 acres, the notice shall be submitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives not less than the 90 days prescribed by section 203 of the Act (43 U.S.C. 1713(c)) prior to the date of sale. The sale may not be held prior to the completion of the congressional notice period unless such period is waived by Congress.

[45 FR 39418, June 10, 1980, as amended at 49 FR 29015, July 17, 1984]

§ 2711.1-3 Sales requiring grazing permit or lease cancellations.

When lands are identified for disposal and such disposal will preclude livestock grazing, the sale shall not be made until the permittees and lessees are given 2 years prior notification, except in cases of emergency, that their grazing permit or grazing lease and grazing preference may be cancelled in accordance with § 4110.4-2(b) of this title. A sale may be made of such identified lands if the sale is conditioned upon continued grazing by the current permittee/lessee until such time as the current grazing permit or lease would have expired or terminated. A permittee or lessee may unconditionally waive the 2-year prior notification. The publication of a notice of realty action as provided in § 2711.1-2(c) of this title

shall constitute notice to the grazing permittee or lessee if such notice has not been previously given.

[49 FR 29015, July 17, 1984]

§ 2711.2 Qualified conveyees.

Tracts sold under this part may only be conveyed to:

(a) A citizen of the United States 18 years of age or over;

(b) A corporation subject to the laws of any State or of the United States;

(c) A State, State instrumentality or political subdivision authorized to hold property; and

(d) An entity legally capable of conveying and holding lands or interests therein under the laws of the State within which the lands to be conveyed are located. Where applicable, the entity shall also meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

[45 FR 39418, June 10, 1980, as amended at 49 FR 29015, July 17, 1984]

§ 2711.3 Procedures for sale.

§ 2711.3-1 Competitive bidding.

When public lands are offered through competitive bidding:

(a) The date, time, place, and manner for submitting bids shall be specified in the notice required by § 2711.1-2 of this title.

(b) Bids may be made by a principal or a duly qualified agent.

(c) Sealed bids shall be considered only if received at the place of sale prior to the hour fixed in the notice and are made for at least the fair market value. Each bid shall be accompanied by certified check, postal money order, bank draft or cashier's check made payable to the Bureau of Land Management for the amount required in the notice of realty action which shall be not less than 10 percent or more than 30 percent of the amount of the bid, and shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope which shall be marked as prescribed in the notice. If 2 or more envelopes containing valid bids of the same amount are received, the determination of which is to be considered the highest bid shall be by supplemental biddings. The designated high bidders shall be allowed to submit oral

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or sealed bids as designated by the authorized officer.

(d) The highest qualifying sealed bid received shall be publicly declared by the authorized officer. If the notice published pursuant to § 2711.1-2 of this title provides for oral bids, such bids, in increments specified by the authorized officer, shall then be invited. After oral bids, if any, are received, the highest qualifying bid, designated by type, whether sealed or oral, shall be declared by the authorized officer. The person declared to have entered the highest qualifying oral bid shall submit payment by cash, personal check, bank draft, money order, or any combination for not less than one-fifth of the amount of the bid immediately following the close of the sale. The successful bidder, whether such bid is a sealed or oral bid, shall submit the remainder of the full bid price prior to the expiration of 180 days from the date of the sale. Failure to submit the full bid price prior to, but not including the 180th day following the day of the sale, shall result in cancellation of the sale of the specific parcel and the deposit shall be forfeited and disposed of as other receipts of sale. In the event the authorized officer rejects the highest qualified bid or releases the bidder from it, the authorized officer shall determine whether the public lands shall be withdrawn from the market or be reoffered.

(e) If the public lands are not sold pursuant to the notice issued under § 2711.1-2 of this subpart, they may remain available for sale on a continuing basis until sold as specified in the notice.

(f) The acceptance or rejection of any offer to purchase shall be in writing no later than 30 days after receipt of such offer unless the offerer waives his right to a decision within such 30-day period. In case of a tract of land in excess of 2,500 acres, such acceptance or rejection shall not be given until the expiration of 30 days after the end of the notice to the Congress provided for in § 2711.1-2(d) of this subpart. Prior to the expiration of such periods the authorized officer may refuse to accept any offer or may withdraw any tract from sale if he determines that:

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(1) Consummation of the sale would be inconsistent with the provisions of any existing law; or

(2) Collusive or other activities have hindered or restrained free and open bidding; or

(3) Consummation of the sale would encourage or promote speculation in public lands.

(g) Until the acceptance of the offer and payment of the purchase price, the bidder has no contractual or other rights against the United States, and no action taken shall create any contractual or other obligations of the United States.

[45 FR 39418, June 10, 1980, as amended at 49 FR 29015, July 17, 1984; 49 FR 29795, July 24, 1984]

§ 2711.3-2 Modified bidding.

(a) Public lands may be offered for sale utilizing modified competitive bidding procedures when the authorized officer determines it is necessary in order to assure equitable distribution of land among purchasers or to recognize equitable considerations or public policies.

(1) Modified competitive bidding includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Offering to designated bidders the right to meet the highest bid. Refusal or failure to meet the highest bid shall constitute a waiver of such bidding provisions; or

(ii) A limitation of persons permitted to bid on a specific tract of land offered for sale; or

(iii) Offering to designated bidders the right of first refusal to purchase the lands at fair market value. Failure to accept an offer to purchase the offered lands within the time specified by the authorized officer shall constitute a waiver of his preference consideration.

(2) Factors that shall be considered in determining when modified competitive bidding procedures shall be used, include but are not limited to: Needs of State and/or local government, adjoining landowners, historical users, and other needs for the tract. A description of the method of modified competitive bidding to be used and a statement indicating the purpose or objective of the bidding procedure selected shall be